

# **Joint Master Control – the next generation**

## **November 2022**

*Notes and recommendations from the Engineering and Broadcast Operations Committee*

### **Goals:**

- Capital resources necessary to maintain the system and to address constantly changing technology
- Capital resources to ensure we are responsive to our partners
  - Full Users – those using Joint Master Control: How can we improve?
  - Partial Users – those not using Joint Master Control: carrying OGTV channel, redundant systems, & access to content catalog
- Multi-year commitment with Full Users so that BEMC can negotiate better deals with its vendors

### **Tasks:**

- Quarterly or bi-annual Engineering review: What do we need right now? What projects are underway and what is their status?
- Annual Engineering review: What went right? What went wrong? Suggest Engineering & Broadcast Operations Committee meet in late April prior to the May Commission meeting.
- Biennial Engineering Capital review: What's coming over the next 5 years that we need to prepare for? What equipment is reaching end of life? Is capacity an issue?
  - With all partners – active JMC users and those for which we can serve as a redundant back up
  - What do the Ohio PTV stations need from BEMC to support their goals involving ATSC 3.0?
  - Commission committee to meet in late August 2023 or September 2023
- Regularly review and determine whether JMC is meeting requirements of partner station licensing, including – but not limited to – closed captioning, uptime, emergency alerts.
- Review engineering performance by primary streams and pass-through channels
- Explore solutions at BEMC to assist Partial Users more effectively in the JMC, to achieve their goals with added redundancy, support, etc. This is based on an explicit discussion and understanding that each partner is different and may require different solutions.

- Quarterly service reports shared with full and Partial Users; similar service reports requested to be offered from Ohio PTV Stations not primarily serviced by the JMC
- JMC Asset Management System access / JMC broadcast catalog access from remote locations, for programming/traffic staff at Full and Partial Users' stations
  - Myers offers a ProTrack Hub & Spoke solution that can be viable for stations not primarily serviced by the JMC
  - The Myers solution would come with an ongoing service/support cost
- Assure continued compliance/access to streaming services as new options come online (PBS sIX, MVPDs, Satellite companies)
  - Ongoing PBS sIX Project progression and successes, including BEMC being the First JMC to fully complete the "sIX Phase E tasks" allowing for linear streams to digital partners.
  - Active involvement in PBS Satellite Transition, with BEMC being among the leaders involved in the PBS Satellite Migration Working Group for this significant transitional period.
- Resolve media transcoding compatibility with the Magnabox
- Coordinate with stations to create animated lower-third graphics and identify shortcomings in currently available software/equipment
- Improve efficiency for local stations to transfer media such as promos or advertising to JMC / Stations commitment to use sIX to share programs with each other?
- Consider whether there are better systems (distributed vs. hub and spoke) that would work better moving forward than what we have?
- Affirm that whether a station is a Full or Partial User there is no financial responsibility to the station and no impact on the subsidy allocation.

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